

International Baccalaureate (IB) OSPI Program Brief

Program description:

The IB program is designed as an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepares students, normally aged 16 to 19, for success at university and life beyond. The program is normally taught over two years and has gained recognition and respect from the world's leading universities.

Students may take individual IB courses or may study up to six courses at higher level or standard level in an effort to earn an IB diploma. Students must choose one subject from each of the following subject groups ensuring breadth of experience in languages, social studies, the experimental sciences, and mathematics. An additional subject may be from an arts offering, or the student may choose another subject from the core subject groups.

In addition, the program has three core requirements that are included to broaden the educational experience and challenge students to apply their knowledge and understanding:

1. The extended essay
2. A "Theory of Knowledge" course
3. A service requirement

Students take written examinations at the end of the program, which are scored by external IB examiners. Students also complete assessment tasks in the school, which are either initially scored by teachers, and then moderated by external moderators, or sent directly to external examiners.

Participating schools include:

The International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) reports the following 16 public school sites in Washington:

- A.C. Davis Senior High, Yakima School District
- Capital High School, Olympia School District
- Chief Sealth International High School, Seattle School District
- Columbia River High School, Vancouver School District
- Edmonds-Woodway High School, Edmonds School District
- Henry Foss High School, Tacoma School District
- Inglemoor High School, Northshore School District
- Ingraham High School, Seattle School District
- Interlake High School, Bellevue School District
- Kennewick High School, Kennewick School District
- Kent-Meridian High School, Kent School District
- Mt. Rainier High School, Highline School District
- Rainier Beach High School, Seattle School District
- Skyline High School, Issaquah School District
- Sumner High School, Sumner School District
- Thomas Jefferson High School, Federal Way School District

Benefits for students and system:

- Lessens time to degree completion and reduces the costs associated with college tuition.
- Improves quality of curriculum, as syllabi are established via international collaboration.
- IB tests provide students with internationally recognized and normed feedback.
- Provides students a chance to try college-level coursework while still in high school with teacher and parent support.
- Students benefit by regular assessment of faculty by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO).
- Students are required to demonstrate knowledge via multiple means.
- IB diploma candidates complete 150 hours of community service.

Student responsibilities:

- Must maintain a high degree of scholarship.
- Must apply for testing.

Cost(s) to students:

OSPI has participated in the federal Access to Higher Standards Act since 1999. Through this program, test fees are reduced for qualifying low-income students who are eligible for IB testing offered through the IBO. This opportunity is funded through the same provisions of the federal Access to Higher Standards Act for low-income students established for AP. This program is authorized by the [Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I Part G](#).

- IB test registration and subject fees for each higher level (HL) or standard level (SL) subject exams are paid through the federal grant managed by OSPI at a rate of \$94 per exam.
- Eligible students are responsible for 10 percent of the \$151 Registration fee
- Eligible students would be responsible for \$10 per exam.

Cost(s) to districts:

- Annual school fee for IB diploma program—\$10,400.
- Supporting a robust IB program may require some instruction occur outside the regular school day, incurring additional costs to districts.
- Schools must cover initial training costs in IB for new instructors.
- IB reimbursements are paid to local school districts upon receipt and approval of the IB Test Fee Application.

Number of students currently participating:

During the 2012–13 school year, 7000 students were enrolled in IB coursework according to CEDARS.

Findings:

- The number of IB diplomas has grown from 144 in 2004–05 to 466 in 2012-13. This represents a 224 percent increase.
- Of the 2,236 Washington students taking at least one IB exam 1,931 earned college credit eligible scores of four or higher. This represents 86.3 percent.
- The total number of Black/African American students enrolled in IB courses has increased by 80 (29.2 percent) between 2011 and 2013
- The total number of Hispanic / Latino students enrolled in IB courses has increased by 422 (68.5 percent) between 2011 and 2013

- The total number of Two or More races students enrolled in IB courses has increased by 134 (50.4 percent) between 2011 and 2013
- The total number of Special Education students enrolled in IB courses has increased by 108 (177 percent) between 2011 and 2013
- The total number of Bilingual students enrolled in IB courses has increased by 33 (36.3 percent) between 2011 and 2013
- The total number of Gifted students enrolled in IB courses has increased by 1072 (87.1 percent) between 2011 and 2013
- The total number of Free/Reduced Price Lunch program students enrolled in IB courses has increased by 727 (54 percent) between 2011 and 2013

Web resource(s):

OSPI/International Baccalaureate website:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/AdvancedPlacement/resources.aspx>

International Baccalaureate Organization Web site: <http://www.ibo.org/>

State agency contact(s):

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